

May 6, 2011

**HOPKINS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
DISTRICT FACILITIES PLAN HEARING REPORT***

A public hearing was held at Browning Springs Middle School on April 28, 2011, at 5:30 p.m. (EDT). The purpose of the public hearing was to propose a new District Facility Plan developed by the Hopkins County Schools Local Planning Committee. The Local Planning Committee (LPC) voted 15-0 in favor of the proposed new plan and the Board voted 5-0 to approve the new plan.

There were (16) sixteen people at the hearing exclusive of the hearing officer individual in attendance. Steve Gilliam, Director of Facilities, served as the locally-appointed hearing officer. Fifteen individuals representing Hanson Elementary and a writer from the local newspaper were present.

COMMENTS

Steve Gilliam called the public hearing to order. The hearing officer outlined the purpose of the hearing and the hearing procedures in accordance with 702 KAR 1:001. It was explained that those persons wishing to speak would be given the opportunity and that written statements would be accepted. All considerations will be made available to the Kentucky Board of Education via the hearing officer's report. The hearing officer read the proposed new District Facility Plan which includes; 1) a new elementary school to replace Hanson Elementary in priority 2a. 2) various renovations and additions to twelve schools in priority 2c. 3) a new preschool center in priority 2d. 4) three projects in priority 4 5) total unmet needs of \$74,171,754 6) five projects in the discretionary category priority 5.

The hearing officer read into the record six written statements that were received from one Hanson parent, one classroom assistant at Hanson, two retired teachers from Hanson, and two current Hanson teachers. Each letter expressed concern with the condition of Hanson Elementary and the need for a new school. The floor was opened to those who wished to make a statement.

Ms. Brandi Gunkel, a Hanson parent, read an email that she had sent to the superintendent on March 31, 2011. The email indicated that the Hanson Elementary School building had taken a turn for the worse, because some water pipes had burst and led to the HVAC system in one side of the building being turned off for a week. She stated that the temperature had fallen to 50 degrees in the classrooms, and that children did not want to go to school due to the cold. She called on the superintendent to lower the thermostat to 50 degrees in his office in their honor, and she promised that she would not give up on getting Hanson School a new building.

Mr. Brad Summers, another Hanson parent, started off by expressing his disappointment that no board members from the local district nor the state were present at the hearing. He went on to say that he was pleased with the nurturing and growth of his three sons while at HES, but not the physical environment. He expressed his dissatisfaction with the choice of building a Tech Center over a new elementary by saying that it was a classic example of personal legacy and political agendas over the safety and health of our children.

Ms. Cheryl Lykins, a teacher at Hanson, talked about how much she loved Hanson School and what a great place it was, and her desire was to see a new school in the same location. She talked about how when other community schools in Hopkins County closed, the communities suffered.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the new District Facility Plan developed by the Hopkins County Schools Local Planning Committee and adopted by the Hopkins County Board of Education be approved as the District Facility Plan for the Hopkins County School District. A copy of the new plan is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Gilliam, Director of Facilities

cc: Tim Lucas, Manager
Public Hearing Agenda
Planning File

Attachments: Hopkins County School District Facility Plan

*This document is presented to KDE as submitted by the district-appointed hearing officer.